



MEETING MINUTES / 21 October 2021

****MEETING WAS CONDUCTED HYBRID VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS****

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Baldwin, Lopez, Magner, Harwood, Sarg, Lardizzone, Schroeder, Lewis

Excused: Bradley, McMullen, Miller, Farley

Guests: Vince Kane (Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center), Carol Erhart (DVH), Pat Cerchio (First State Military Women), Dave Skocik (Friends of Delaware Veterans), Eric Buckson (4th Levy Court District Commissioner), Barry Newstadt (Former Commissioner), Sam Cannan (Veterans Watchmaker Initiative)

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:

Nothing to report

MEETING MINUTES:

Previous minutes approved by Lardizzone seconded by Magner.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Nothing to report

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Carole Erhart, Director

(Erhart) Discussed overviewing Healthcare Employment Market, COVID Testing, Employee Recognition, Partnership with DHR Diversity Office, and major projects. (Displayed and discussed how DVH is over the average of healthcare providers compared to state and national levels.)

(Erhart) COVID Status, 82% of staff are vaccinated, 95% of residents are vaccinated. Visitation is on outbreak status. (Discussed and displayed staffing of DVH). Described how staff and committees get to provide input for new medical equipment and technology.

(Farley) Please attached PowerPoint to minutes, confirmed

(Baldwin) We need to switch to Director Kane due to scheduling and time limitations

Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director

(Kane) October 25th, Senator Carper will be doing a virtual summit, with a limit of 25 physical attendance. Not sure if Governor will attend and speak about Governor's challenge.

(Baldwin) Informed Kane he will not be in state for summit.

(Kane) Discussed what topics will be presented during the summit.

(Baldwin) Asked about COVID boosters.

(Kane) Pfizer is the only booster available currently and VA is waiting for guidance on other brands of boosters.

(Baldwin) Thank you for the report, now lets jump back to Carol.

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Carole Erhart, Director

(Erhart) Are there any questions from my presentation?

(Baldwin) Is testing 3 times a week vs. 1 time per week causing a financial impact?

(Erhart) No, we have enough COVID money to sustain the testing in house for another 5 months.

(Sarg) Will the PCC system interface with the new dental clinic?
(Erhart) I don't believe so, but once we get going we will see if there is a transfer method.
(Lardizzone) When is the next admissions meeting?
(Erhart) I do not know. I will look into scheduling this week or next.
(McMullen) What is your census right now?
(Erhart) 52.
(Sarg) Are the staffing numbers you presented the current staffing, or the maximum staffing should we meet full capacity.
(Erhart) That was currently working staff. I have several staff members out on workers comp and FMLA. And we are in the process of hiring additional. We are never below the Eagles Law and always strive to be above the average.
(Erhart) -- Presented residents and staff photos saying thank you to Commissioner Baldwin.
(Baldwin) Thank you. Any more questions for Carol?

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(Ms. Perini) Representing petitioners regarding to DVH. Facility concerns.
(Baldwin) Acknowledged some individuals suggested that DDVH fall under DHSS rather than Secretary of State.
(Skocik) Delaware Veterans Trust Fund event.
(Cerchio) New officers. Teaming with Girl Scouts for cemetery wreath pick up.
(Thorton) Expressed concerns about DVH.
(Baldwin) Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Magner:

Interments – 73 (-3)

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 36 (+3)

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Harwood:

(Harwood) COLA increase in 2022, benefitting disabled vet and retirees. HR 3 bill is being reassessed due to COVID.

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

(Sarg) Initial drafts of the perspective legislation will be sent out.
(Baldwin) Discussed his conversations with legislators and how we have support but need more input. Veterans do not want to come to Delaware. (several in agreement)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

(Baldwin on behalf of Director Matticks)

Approved 5 grants, awarded \$11,356, Currently have \$98,120.66 in trust fund. \$4,888 from last year rolling into endowment fund.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

POW/MIA Day (Run and retreat) was held in Sept.

Commissioner Miller (American Legion - AL)

Service Officer is back in the VA office and travelling
Interment got national attention in Seaford

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AMVETS)

New national commander, 6 handicap ramps, Trunk or Treat, and Appreciation picnic

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

Toys for Tots

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

67 clients for veterans claims and 4 DIC claims.

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

2022 Storming the Hill (virtual or physical)
Dover was awarded 5-star rating

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

\$1000 donation to friends of the fallen
Purple Heart Trail

Commissioner Phillips (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Donated to VFW in MS after hurricane

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America - VVA)

Veterans Day Event @ 2 pm

Commissioner Schroeder (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Honored book author veteran at last meeting

Commissioner Lewis (At Large, affiliated with NABVETS)

New National Commander
Served 15 clients through VSOs

Commissioner Sutton (At Large)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Harwood (At Large, affiliated with National Guard)

Uptick with incarcerated veterans looking for services
Possible future veteran resource drive thru

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

Wants to sponsor 7 families for Christmas

TERM COMPLETION:

Nothing to report

EVENTS:

Nothing to Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS:

Nothing to report

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Veterans Day Ceremony

Baldwin's Farewell

SPECIAL SESSION:

Nothing to report

EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Meeting date unknown

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 16 November 2021 at 1000

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

The background of the slide features the official seal of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The seal is circular, with a blue outer ring containing the words "DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS" in white capital letters. Inside the ring is a stylized illustration of a white, two-story building with a central gabled roof and several windows, set against a dark blue background with white stars.

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING OCT 2021

WHAT'S NEW - AGENDA

- HealthCare Employment Market
- COVID Testing
- Employee Recognition
- Partnership with DHR Diversity Office
- Major Projects

CMS STAFFING FOR DVH LEVELS AND EAGLES LAW

- Eagles Law is 2.89 HPPD
- Ratio is not in effect due to Covid.
- How does DVH Compare on HPPD (pulled from Nursing Home Compare 9/2021

DVH	Average in DE		Average National
RN	2.32	1.13	.44
LPN	.89	.90	.89
C.N.A.	3.31	2.17	2.15
	6.52	4.20	3.48

COVID STATUS

- 82 % staff vaccination rate
- 95%+ resident vaccination rate
- Current Visitation and Testing Status
 - We are testing 3 times per week. Testing is a condition of employment.
 - Visitation is on outbreak status. Outside and compassionate visits only.

STAFFING DISCUSSION

- National shortage of Nurse and C.N.A.'s
- We are actively recruiting C.N.A.'s and Nurses
- We currently have 22 actively working C.N.A.'s .
- We currently have 15 actively working Nurses.
- Clinical site for LPN's and C.N.A.'s
- Recruited 2 of the last C.N.A. class to come to work at DVH
- Recruitment Incentive (staff will be paid when you refer a person).
- Sign on Incentive for new Hires
- Retention Incentive Program for Nursing is in final stage of approval.
(Nursing staff who are not covered with Sign on Bonus.

COVID COMPLIANCE

- Mandatory Testing
 - Condition of Employment
 - Weekly Reporting
- Vaccination is Strongly Encouraged
 - CMS is requiring us to ask to you if you will consider being vaccinated. It is not a condition of employment.
 - May change when federal regulations are finalized.

COVID AND FLU CLINIC

- 40 Covid boosters were administered last week to staff.
- Residents received their booster shots last month.
- FLU Clinic will be held at the end of the month of October for staff.
- Residents have already received their FLU shot.

COMMITTEES UPDATES

- Staff are invited to join teams /committees that will be making decision:
- Mechanical lifts committee – We will be standardizing the lifts. ARJO and Hoyer will be bringing in models for us to try. Jake provided staff to review the product.
- Bed Selection – team to review what beds we should purchase. We will be replacing beds on the units over the next 2 year. We continue to review the beds that we are able to purchase.
- Super User - learn new systems to be able to support each other. PCC super users have been identified.
- New tablets- Mini IpadS have been selected by the staff and have been ordered.

MAJOR PROJECT UPDATE

- Generator project – Generator is onsite and expected to be up and running by mid December.
- Canteen repairs have been completed and is now an all-purpose activity room. Resident's baked pies last week.
- Dental Suite construction to start in 2022.
- Courtyard redesign will be implemented in near future. We need your input. This project will occur in March/ April of 2022.
- Public access will be blocked to the back of the building due to safety concerns remains in effect through the generator project.
- New Furniture arrived for the Costal Room and the Lodge.
- A bid has been obtained to be able to have plastic drop curtains on the far end of the porch for outside visitation.

DIVERSITY OFFICE PARTNERSHIP

- Diversity Training and Inclusion Training
- Respectful workplace training
- Transgender Awareness
- Bullying and other disruptive behavior
- Avoiding workplace conflict
- Communication with Tact
- Workplace Communication
- Employee Survey to be completed in the month of Oct 2021 by Dept of State.
- Committee's – You have a voice that impacts the direction we are going.
- Supervisory Training
- This is just the beginning of how we change the culture at DVH and it starts with each and everyone of us. Training to continue over the next year.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EFFORTS

Planning Committee Membership

Quarterly Events

Fund Raising

Employee Spotlight



PCC

- Training starts in Mid October
- Go live is December 1.